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Press Release

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Labor Accepting Proposals for \$6.5 million in Workforce Development Grants

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is accepting grant proposals for a variety of workforce training and development programs. A total of \$6.5 million in funding is anticipated for fiscal year 2015. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28.

The combined announcement for Alaska Youth First, the State Training and Employment Program, the Alaska Oil and Gas Occupations Training Fund and the Alaska Career and Technical Education Fund is online at <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices>.

“We are marking major milestones on new and expanding resource development projects and these funds come at a critical time to help develop Alaska’s workforce,” Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Dianne Blumer said. “The grants will support projects for youth and worker training and employment, oil and gas industry training, and capacity building for career and technical education.”

The Alaska Department of Labor encourages non-profit and for-profit organizations, public and private entities, training providers, local government and education authorities, and community service organizations to propose workforce training projects that result in direct employment of Alaskans.

“We listened to feedback from employers, training providers, and other stakeholders – this combined announcement makes it easier to understand and access the full scope of youth and workforce development funding available,” Blumer said.

Alaska Youth First activities are aimed at youth ages 14 to 24 who need exposure to Alaska’s labor market. By learning more about Alaskan jobs, gaining practical work experience, developing employment skills, and using applied learning techniques to connect lessons from the classroom with real jobs Alaska’s youth can prepare for Alaskan jobs. For more information on AYF email Carol.Schumacher@Alaska.Gov or call at 269-4658.

STEP targets eligible individuals for training that will result in ongoing employment or advancement to higher-paying, living wage jobs. Individuals who contributed to the Unemployment Trust Fund within the last five years, are drawing or have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits, or are employed but likely to lose their job due to workforce reductions or conditions that require learning substantially different job skills are eligible for STEP-funded training programs. For more information on STEP email Christine.Sanderford@Alaska.Gov or call 269-2002.

Oil and Gas funding will be awarded for training that leads directly to employment in oil and gas occupations identified in the updated oil and gas training plan and identified by industry as most in need. For more information on Oil and Gas Occupations Training email Julie.Frizzell@Alaska.Gov or call 269-4590.

Career and Technical Education grantees may receive up to \$60,000 for one-time capacity building efforts that increase access to CTE training in secondary and post-secondary environments. Priority is placed on supporting

proposals that are sustainable and can succeed independent of future CTE funding. For more information on the CTE contact Jeff.Selvey@Alaska.Gov or call 269-3016.

Technical assistance will be provided through a teleconference on Jan. 31. Proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. (Alaska Standard Time), February 28, 2014. Applications will be accepted through the online grant application system EGrAMS <http://labor.alaska.gov/bp/egramshome.htm>. A tutorial showing a step-by-step process on how to use EGrAMS is included.

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